

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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DRAFTED BY TEXT RECEIVED FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

APPROVED BY EA:WHGLEESTEEN, JR.

S/S- REWOODS

S:JCOVEY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, CH, US

SUBJECT: CHOU EN-LAI'S DEATH - CONDOLENCE MESSAGES

1. PLEASE TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING CONDOLENCE MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO MAO TSE-TUNG, CHU TE, AND MADAME CHOU. SIGNED ORIGINALS WILL BE DELIVERED TO PRCLO IN WASHINGTON. MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO CHIAO KUAN-HUA IS BEING TRANSMITTED BY SEPTTEL FOR SIMULTANEOUS DELIVERY IN PEKING.

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN:

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, I WISH TO CONVEY TO YOU, AND TO THE PEOPLE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, MY PERSONAL CONDOLENCES ON THE DEATH OF PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI.

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PREMIER CHOU'S DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF WORLD AFFAIRS AND HIS QUALITIES OF STATESMANSHIP AND FORESIGHT MADE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE NEW RELATIONSHIP WHICH IS GROWING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE.

DURING OUR RECENT MEETING, I REAFFIRMED MY DETERMINATION TO COMPLETE THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. AMERICANS WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER PREMIER CHOU FOR HIS MAJOR ROLE IN THIS HISTORIC PROCESS.

SINCERELY,

GERALD R. FORD

HIS EXCELLENCY
CHAIRMAN MAO TSETUNG
PEKING
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
END TEXT

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN:

I HAVE JUST LEARNED OF THE PASSING AWAY OF PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI. LET ME EXPRESS MY PERSONAL CONDOLENCES, AND THOSE OF OUR GOVERNMENT AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, TO YOU AND TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF MEETING WITH THE PREMIER WHEN I VISITED CHINA IN 1972. HE LEFT A LASTING IMPRESSION ON ME FOR HIS REMARKABLE GRASP OF WORLD ISSUES OF CONCERN TO OUR TWO COUNTRIES. HIS SOUND JUDGMENT AND UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN AFFAIRS ENABLED HIM TO MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE HISTORY OF HIS COUNTRY.

PREMIER CHOU PLAYED A PRIMARY ROLE IN BUILDING THE NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE UNITED STATES WHICH IS ENVISAGED IN THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE. I AM CONFIDENT THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES WILL CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN THE TIES OF UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION WHICH HE DID SO MUCH TO FORGE. CONSOLIDATION OF A CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WOULD BE AN ENDURING TRIBUTE TO THE PREMIER'S EFFORTS, AND OF LASTING BENEFIT TO THE PEOPLE OF CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES.

SINCERELY,

GERALD R. FORD

HIS EXCELLENCY
CHU TEH
CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE
NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS
PEKING
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
END TEXT

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MME. CHOU:

MRS. FORD AND I WISH TO EXPRESS TO YOU OUR DEEPEST
SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI.

IN MY MEETING WITH THE PREMIER DURING MY FIRST VISIT TO
CHINA, HIS WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN AFFAIRS
LEFT A LASTING IMPRESSION ON ME. IT WAS THESE QUALITIES
WHICH ENABLED HIM TO MAKE SUCH AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION
TO THE HISTORY OF HIS COUNTRY. AMERICANS WILL PARTICULARLY
REMEMBER HIM FOR HIS MAJOR ROLE IN FORGING NEW
TIES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES.

OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU AT THIS TIME OF BEREAVEMENT.

SINCERELY,

GERALD R. FORD
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MME. CHOU EN-LAI
PEKING
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
END TEXT

2. DEPARTMENT AND WHITE HOUSE DO NOT PLAN TO RELEASE
TEXTS BUT HAVE NO OBJECTION IF PRC GOVERNMENT WISHES TO
DO SO.
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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